Short Communications

Name changes in *Mariscus* (Cyperaceae)

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This note is a result of research executed jointly at the Botanical Research Institute in Pretoria, and the Department of Botany of the University of Pretoria, under the direction of Prof P.J. Robbertse.

A new combination, *Mariscus solidus* (Kunth) Vorster is made, and the basionym is lectotypified. This is the correct name for what was previously known as *Mariscus gueinzii* C.B. Cl. and *Cyperus dactyliformis* Boeck. *Mariscus thunbergii* (Vahl) Schrad. is shown to be the correct name for what was formerly known as *Mariscus riparius* Schrad. and *Cyperus thunbergii* Vahl.

'n Nuwe kombinasie, *Mariscus solidus* (Kunth) Vorster word gemaak, en die basioniem word lektotipifiseer. Dit is die korrekte naam vir wat voorheen bekend was as *Mariscus gueinzii* C.B. Cl. en *Cyperus dactyliformis* Boeck. Daar word gedemonstreer dat *Mariscus thunbergii* (Vahl) Schrad. die korrekte naam is vir wat tot dusver bekend was as *Mariscus riparius* Schrad. en *Cyperus thunbergii* Vahl.

Keywords: Cyperaceae, *Mariscus*, name change, typification

Mariscus solidus, a new combination and the correct name for *Mariscus gueinzii* and *Cyperus dactyliformis*.

The epithets *gueinzii* C.B. Cl. and *dactyliformis* Boeck., hitherto in use for the same species of *Mariscus*, were found not to be the oldest. Comparison of type material revealed that the correct name is:

Mariscus solidus *(Kunth) Vorster*, comb. nov.

Cyperus solidus Kunth, Enum. 2: 76 (1837). Type: Cape, 'Ora orientalis Africae australis, Coloniam inter et Port Natal', *Drège 4410* (B, lecto., here designated!).

Cyperus ligularis sensu Thunb., Prodr. p. 18 (1794), & Fl. Cap. p. 100 (1823), non L. (1759).

Cyperus congestus Vahl var. γ Nees in Linnaea 10: 137 (1835). Syntypes: Cape, 'In districtu Caledon', *Ecklon s.n.* (not seen); 'in sylvis primaevis "Krakakammae" ', *Ecklon s.n.* (B!).

Cyperus solidus Kunth var. *elatior* Kunth, Enum. 2: 76 (1837). Type: as for *C. solidus* above.

Cyperus elatior (Kunth) Boeck. in Linnaea 36: 327 (1870).

Mariscus elatior (Kunth) C.B. Cl. in Dur. & Schinz, Consp. Fl. Afr. 5: 587 (1894), & in Fl. Cap. 7: 194 (1897).

Cyperus dactyliformis Boeck. in Linnaea 36: 329 (1870); Kükenth. in Pflanzenr. 4, 20, 101: 433 (1936). Syntypes: Cape, 'Prom. bon. spei' [Zwartkopsrivier], *Zeyher 15* (B, lecto., here designated!); *Drège 4111* (not traced).

Mariscus gueinzii C.B. Cl. in Dur. & Schinz, Consp. Fl. Afr. 5: 588 (1894), nom. nud., & in Fl. Cap. 7: 195 (1897). Syntypes: Natal, near Durban, *Wood 4098* (BOL!; K!, NH!); *Buchanan 130* (K!); [Port Natal, Sept 1891], *Gueinzius s.n.* (K!). Cape, Zwartkops River, *Burchell 4431* (K, 2 sheets!; PRE!); *Zeyher 15* (B!); Komgha Division, *Flanagan 977* (BOL!; PRE!; SAM!).

Mariscus owanii (Boeck.) C.B. Cl. sensu C.B. Cl. in Dur. & Schinz, Consp. Fl. Afr. 5: 590 (1894), & in Fl. Cap. 7: 194 (1897) p.p., non *Cyperus owanii* Boeck. (1876).

Mariscus riparius sensu Gordon-Gray in Mem. bot. Surv. S. Afr. 39: 106 (1972) p.p., non Schrad (1821).

Kunth (1837) originally gave a description of *Cyperus solidus*, followed by brief diagnoses of two varieties namely α *elatior* and β *humilior*. Specimens were cited under *C. solidus* and under β *humilior* [presently known as *M. tabularis* (Schrad.) C.B. Cl.], but not under α *elatior*. Various subsequent authors interpreted the word *elatior* as an epithet applying to a taxon different from typical *C. solidus*, e.g. Boeckeler (1870), Clarke (1894 & 1897), and Kükenthal (1936).

Because Kunth did not cite any material under α *elatior*, it is my interpretation that the word *elatior* should not be seen as an epithet denoting a separate entity, but rather as a descriptive word qualifying the autonymic variety. This decision disposes of var. *elatior* as a separate taxonomic entity, but the typification of *C. solidus* is not solved beyond doubt. With the original description Kunth cited only 'Cap. b. spei. Drège legit.'. A search failed to bring to light any herbarium sheets inscribed in Kunth's hand with the epithet *elatior*, but in B a sheet of *Drège 4410* was found with the name *Cyperus solidus* written in what appears to be Kunth's handwriting. This collection was cited by Boeckeler (1870) as *C. elatior* (Kunth) Boeck. On the whole this specimen, which is a typical example of *C. solidus*, appears to be the one on which Kunth most likely based *C. solidus*, and for this reason I select it as lectotype.

Mariscus thunbergii, the correct name for *Mariscus riparius* and *Cyperus thunbergii*.

Comparison of type material revealed that the names *Mariscus riparius* Schrad. and *Cyperus thunbergii* Vahl hitherto in use for the same species, should be replaced by:

Mariscus thunbergii *(Vahl) Schrad.*, Anal. Fl. Cap. p. 13 (1832).

Cyperus thunbergii Vahl, Enum. 2: 371 (1806); Kükenth. in Pflanzenr. 4, 20, 101: 438 (1936); Levyns in Adamson & Salter, Fl. Cape Penins. pp. 100 (1950). Type: Cape, without precise locality, *Thunberg sub Herbarium Thunberg 1607* (UPS, lecto., here designated, microfiche!).

Cyperus alopecuroides sensu Thunb., Prodr. p. 18 (1794), & Fl. Cap. p. 101 (1823), non Rottb. (1773).

Mariscus riparius Schrad. in Goett. Gelehrt. Anz. 3: 2067 (1821), ex descr.; C.B. Cl. in Fl. Cap. 7: 193 (1897), & Illustr. Cyp. t. 28, figs. 1–3 (1909). Type: Cape, 'an den Ufern der Flüsse', no collector cited (not traced).

Cyperus thunbergii Vahl var. γ Nees in Linnaea 10: 138 (1835). Type: Cape, 'ad flumen Olifantsrivier', *Ecklon s.n.* (B!).

Mariscus riparius Schrad. var. *gillii* C.B. Cl. in Dur. & Schinz, Consp. Fl. Afr. 5: 592 (1894), nom. nud., & in Fl. Cap. 7: 193 (1897). Type: Cape, Buffeljagts River, Swellendam, *Gill s.n.* (K!).

Cyperus thunbergii Vahl var. *gillii* (C.B. Cl.) Kükenth. in Pflanzenr. 4, 20, 101: 439 (1936).

Mariscus riparius Schrad. var. *robustior* C.B. Cl. in Dur. & Schinz, Consp. Fl. Afr. 5: 592 (1894), nom. nud., & in Fl. Cap. 7: 193 (1897); Schonl. in Mem. bot. Surv. S. Afr. 3: 32, t. 24 (1922). Syntypes: Cape, Table Mountain, *Ecklon 105* (not traced); *Milne 215* (not traced); Simons Bay, *MacGillivray 409* (K!); Uitenhage

Division, *Ecklon & Zeyher 312* (K!); between Theopolis and Port Alfred, *Burchell 4053* (K!); Albany Division, *Williamson s.n.* (not traced); without precise locality, *Drège s.n.* (B!; K); *Bergius 165* (B!); *Thom 909* (K!); *Ecklon & Zeyher 25* (SAM!).

Cyperus thunbergii Vahl var. *robustior* (C.B. Cl.) Kükenth. in Pflanzenr. 4, 20, 101: 439 (1936).

Mariscus riparius Schrad. var. *trisumbellatus* C.B. Cl. in Dur. & Schinz, Consp. Fl. Afr. 5: 592 (1894), nom. nud., & in Fl. Cap. 7: 193 (1897); nom. illeg. Syntypes: Cape, without precise locality, *Thunberg s.n.* (UPS; microfiche!); Clanwilliam, Oliphants River, *Zeyher s.n.* (not traced); Mossel Bay, Great Vals River, *Burchell 6530* (K!); near Port Alfred, *Burchell 3992* (K!; PRE, fragment!).

Cyperus thunbergii Vahl var. *trisumbellatus* (C.B. Cl.) Kükenth. in Pflanzenr. 4, 20, 101: 439 (1936).

Cyperus thunbergii Vahl is obviously an avowed substitute for *C. alopecuroides* sensu Thunb. (1794) which is cited by Vahl as a synonym, and therefore *C. thunbergii* is based on the same material as Thunberg's *C. alopecuroides* (Art. 7.9 of I.C.B.N.). Thunberg did not cite any material under *C. alopecuroides* either in 1794 or 1823 but the Thunberg Herbarium in UPS (according to the microfiche at PRE) contains, under the unpublished name *Scirpus ligularis*, six sheets of inflorescences which appear to represent the present species, namely nos. 1601 – 1604, 1606, and 1607. No. 1607 has an additional inscription 'Cyperus alopecuroides?' in what may be Thunberg's handwriting, for which reason I chose it as lectotype of *C. thunbergii*.

Mariscus riparius var. *trisumbellatus* is an illegitimate name because it includes in its synonymy *C. alopecuroides* of Thunberg on which *C. thunbergii* is based (see above). Furthermore, one of the syntypes of the var. *trisumbellatus* is *Thunberg s.n.* (probably sub Herb. Thunberg 1607) which is here considered to be the type of *C. thunbergii*. (Art. 63.1 of I.C.B.N.).

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A new locality of *Portulacaria armiana* (Portulacaceae) in southern South West Africa/Namibia

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A large colony of the recently described rare *Portulacaria armiana* E.J. van Jaarsveld, was discovered approximately 14 kilometres south-east of the Fish River along the Jan Haak road. This is only the second known colony in South West Africa/Namibia and the third in total. The plants, which occur exclusively on Vioolsdrif granite hills, normally have two or more flowering branches.

'n Groot kolonie van die onlangs beskryfde seldsame *Portulacaria armiana* E.J. van Jaarsveld is ongeveer 14 kilometer suidoos van die Visrivier langs die Jan Haakpad gevind. Dit is slegs die tweede bekende voorkoms in Suidwes-Afrika/Namibia en die derde in totaal. Die plante, waarvan die meeste twee of meer bloeistingels besit, kom uitsluitlik op Vioolsdrifgranietkoppies voor.

Keywords: Portulacaceae, *Portulacaria armiana*, South West Africa/Namibia

During a geological investigation of the *c.* 1900 million year old Vioolsdrif granitoids and associated metavolcanics of the Haib Subgroup along the lower Orange River valley earlier this year, a large new colony of the recently described (Van Jaarsveld 1984), rare *Portulacaria armiana* E.J. van Jaarsveld, was discovered.

This colony, which is only the second known in South West Africa/Namibia and the third in total, is situated approximately 14 kilometres south-east of the Fish River along the Jan Haak road (2817AA de Hoop). In numbers it exceeds the other two known populations. The plants occur on Vioolsdrif granite hills, scattered amongst boulders, and seem to have a preference for northern and north-western slopes. Its affinity for Vioolsdrif granite is remarkable since all three presently known occurrences, namely the colony in the northern Richtersveld, the population along the Dabimub River approximately 3 km north of the Orange River and the presently described locality, occur on mafic granite of the Vioolsdrif Suite. The locality along the Dabimub River is on highly sheared granite, thus creating a gneissose character and is not a mica schist as was described previously (Van Jaarsveld 1984).

A couple of hundred plants occur in an area of a few square kilometres in association with *Ceraria namaquensis* (Sond.) H. Pearson & Stephens, *C. fruticulosa* Pearson & Stephens, *Euphorbia virosa* Willd., *E. guerichiana* Pax, *E. lignosa* Marloth, *E. spinea* N.E. Br., *Commiphora capensis* (Sond.) Engl., *Zygophyllum prismatocarpum* E. Mey. ex Sond., *Aloe dichotoma* Masson, *Pachypodium namaquanum* (Wyley ex Harv.) Welw., and *Boscia albitrunca* (Burch.) Gilg. & Ben. Superficially there is a remarkable vegetative resemblance towards *Zygophyllum prismatocarpum* which commonly occurs in the area. The latter, which is a spreading succulent shrub with fleshy, glaucous, ovate leaves also bears conspicuous tall flowering branches with leaf-like bracts similar

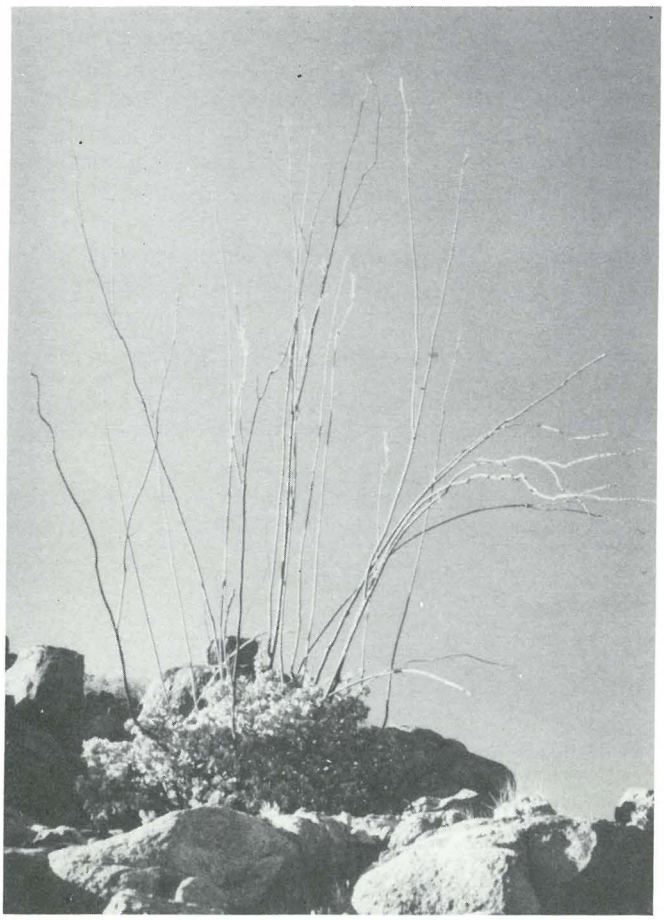

Figure 1 *Portulacaria armiana* plant with many flowering branches.

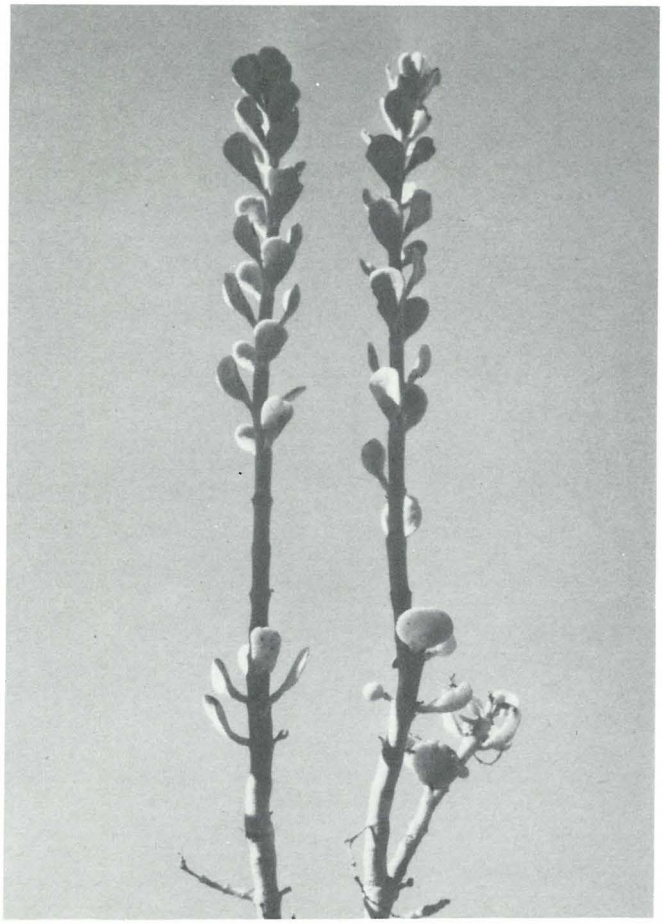

Figure 2 A flowering branch of *Portulacaria armiana* with leaf-like bracts.

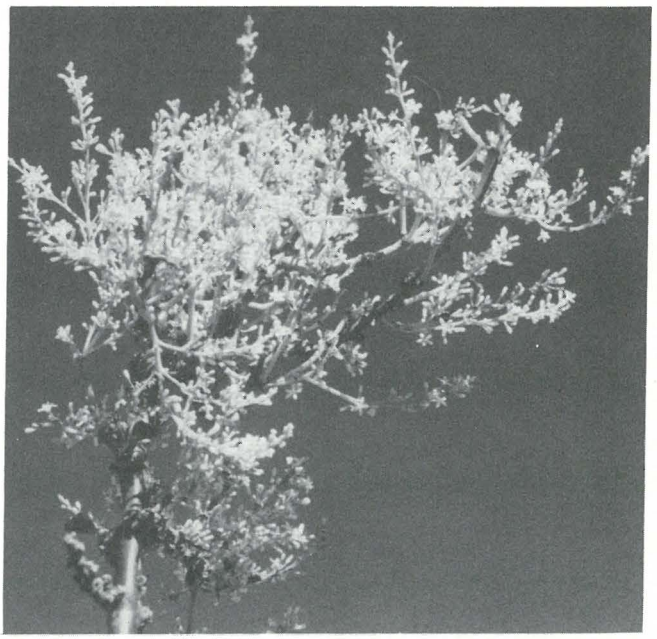

Figure 3 *Portulacaria armiana* inflorescences which occur at the tip of a tall flowering branch.

to those of *Portulacaria armiana*.

In contradiction to the previously published observation of single flowering branches (Van Jaarsveld 1984), the present investigation showed that the majority of plants have two or more tall flowering branches. One very large plant in the present colony even has 20 flowering branch terminals (Figure 1). Leaf-like bracts occur at the tips of these flowering branches (Figure 2). It seems that the flowering period of this plant is longer than was previously reported (July – October) (*ibid.*) since the plant was also found in flower during autumn. The accompanying Figure 3, which was taken at the end of March 1985, illustrates the inflorescences with creamy-white flowers born in dense fascicles.

Acknowledgements

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